

DOCKET NO: 1408.1003/DMP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of 35 U.S.C. §371 of:

Hiroshi KAKUTANI, et al.

Based Upon International Serial No.
PCT/JP00/08452

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Confirmation No.

U.S. Filing Date:

For: **CHARACTER-RECOGNITION PRE-PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND
PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

*Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231*

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please enter the amended claim 5,
with the remaining claims 1-4 and 6-7 unchanged.

The following amendment and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 5 as follows:

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A character-recognition pre-processing apparatus according to any
one of claims 1 to 3 further comprising:

second judgment means which is operated when an image to be subjected to character
recognition contains a plurality of character strings in order to judge the orientation of the image on
the basis of information representing the orientations of the character strings judged by the
judgment means.